

W E L L I N G T O N
U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L
(S O M E R S E T)

A N N U A L R E P O R T

- of the -


M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the year 1970

BY

DR. HUGH MORRISON

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30245163>

WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (SOMERSET)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1970

- - - - -

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1970

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

HUGH MORRISON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Office Address:- Mary Street House, Taunton.

Telephone:- Taunton 87275 (Office)
Taunton 3304 (House)

- - - - -

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

R. CLARKSON, F.A.P.H.I.

Office Address:- Council Offices, Wellington.

Telephone:- Wellington 2276 (Office)
Wellington 2202 (House)

- - - - -

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

MRS. M. HARRISON

- - - - -

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

J. A. DUNNING

Office Address:- Council Offices, Wellington.

Telephone:- Wellington 2276 (Office)
Wellington 2084 (House)

- - - - -

To:

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report for 1970 which is drawn up in accordance with instructions from the Department of Health and Social Security and contains the usual information on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district. The Report, in the main, follows the lines of those of previous years, but certain fresh facts have been incorporated in the various sections. The first of the two sections refers to the province of the Medical Officer of Health and the second is contributed by the Public Health Inspector.

Mr. Evans resigned from his post with the Council during the year on securing an appointment with another authority in the north of England. I should like to put on record my appreciation of the good work which he did in this district. He was succeeded as Public Health Inspector by Mr. Robert Clarkson who took up duty on 1st October 1970.

I wish to thank the Members of the Council, the Clerk and officials of other departments for their willing assistance and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

HUGH MORRISON.

WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT

Area (in acres)	2,186
Estimate of Resident Population, mid-year 1970...	8,420
Census Population 1961...	7,670
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book on 1st April, 1970	3,212
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1970	£308,012
Sum represented by a 1d Rate, 1st April, 1970	£1,246

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1970

1. Births.

(a) Live Births.

	M.	F.	Total		
Legitimate	71	58	129	Crude birth rate	
Illegitimate	3	2	5	per 1,000 of the	
				estimated resident	
Totals:	74	60	134	population	15.9

Standardised Birth Rate, Wellington U.D.	18.1
Birth Rate, England and Wales	16.0
Percentage Illegitimate of Total Live Births	4.0

(b) Stillbirths.

	Total	1
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births -		
Wellington U.D.		7.0
England and Wales		13.0
Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population -		
Wellington U.D. ....		.11

2. Deaths.

(a) Total Deaths	138
Crude Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	16.4
Standardised Death Rate, Wellington U.D.	11.0
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.7

(b) Maternal Mortality

Total maternal mortality from all causes	0
--	---

(c) Infant Mortality

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age - Total	1
Deaths among legitimate infants	1
Deaths among illegitimate infants	0
Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births -	
Wellington U.D.	7.0
England and Wales	18.0

(d) Deaths from Cancer (all ages) -

Total	29
-------------	----

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1970

<u>Cause of Death</u>	M	F	Total
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	-	1
Tuberculosis, other... ..	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough..	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis... ..	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases..	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc..	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	4	2	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	7	1	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast..	-	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus..	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	-	-	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms... ..	1	3	4
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms..	1	1	2
Leukemia	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-
Diabetes Mellitus	-	2	2
Other endocrine etc. diseases	1	-	1
Anaemias	-	2	2
Other diseases of nervous system, etc...	1	1	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease... ..	-	1	1
Hypertensive disease..	3	1	4
Ischaemic heart disease	17	20	37
Other forms of heart disease	2	6	8
Cerebrovascular disease	8	7	15
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	4	3	7
Influenza	-	2	2
Pneumonia	2	5	7
Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	1	5
Asthma	-	-	-
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	1	2
Peptic Ulcer	1	2	3
Other diseases of digestive system	-	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
Cirrhosis of liver	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system...	-	-	-
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue...	-	1	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion... ..	-	-	-
Congenital Anomalies	-	-	-
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. ...	1	-	1
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality ...	-	-	-
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions ...	1	1	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-	2
All other accidents... ..	1	1	2
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	-	1
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
All causes - Total:			66 72 138

INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1970

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 6 months	6 - 12 months	Total under 1 yr.
Prematurity	1	-	-	-	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Domiciliary Services

1. Medical and Nursing.

There are six general medical practitioners living and carrying on practice in the Urban District. There are adequate arrangements when required for domiciliary consultation with consultants serving the Taunton and West Somerset Area and, speaking generally, the practice of medicine in the district is of a high standard. The provisions for domiciliary nursing are also satisfactory. It is hoped that in the not too distant future a Health Centre will become available for doctors practising in Wellington.

2. Home Help Service.

This service, administered by the County Council, is well established in the district, and invaluable assistance is given in many cases of illness and the domestic difficulties arising therefrom. There is no doubt that this is one of the most useful of all services. I am indebted to the County Organiser for the following analysis of cases where help was arranged in Wellington Urban District during 1970:-

Care of Children	1
Old Age and Infirmary	88
Chronic Sick	9
Post Operative	2
Maternity	2
	<hr/>
	102
	<hr/>

Hospital Services

The Hospital Services of the district are administered by the West Somerset Hospital Management Committee under the general direction of the S.W. Regional Hospital Board. A detailed re-appraisal of these services is going on at the present time following on the production by the Government of a comprehensive Hospital Plan for the nation. Some of the provisions for the needs of various types of patients are detailed below:-

1. General Medical and Surgical.

Wellington Cottage Hospital provides valuable facilities for local cases which do not require to be sent to large institutions, and complete consultant cover is available for the work carried out there.

The main provision for hospital services for the area is made by the large general hospital at Musgrove Park in Taunton, which has a branch housing certain departments at East Reach. All medical conditions, apart from certain cases requiring treatment at specialised regional centres, are dealt with at this hospital.

A new Accident Centre was opened during 1968 in association with the East Reach Branch Hospital already mentioned.

The ultimate plan for hospital services in the area is that a large new District Hospital should be erected on the outskirts of Taunton. Planning of this project is well advanced but commencement of this work has been delayed because of the national economic situation.

2. Chronic Sick.

Since the appointment of a Geriatrician to the West Somerset Clinical Area, arrangements for hospital treatment of the chronic sick have been put on a more satisfactory basis. Most of these cases are admitted to Trinity Hospital in Taunton which is having many internal improvements carried out in order to raise it to the highest modern standards. There continues to be a very great pressure on accommodation of this type, and this is a branch of medical care which will undoubtedly make increasing demands on medical and ancillary services as the years go on. There is also severe pressure on Part III accommodation for elderly people not requiring actual nursing, especially on the female side.

3. Infectious Diseases.

Cases of infectious diseases from Wellington Urban District are sent to the Isolation Hospital situated in the Borough of Taunton. The bulk of the Isolation Hospital work is done in cubicle blocks. The pattern of infectious diseases requiring admission to hospital is changing. Many of the patients admitted suffer from vague pyrexial illnesses in which the diagnosis is in doubt. Scarlet Fever which used to provide a large proportion of the admissions is, at the present time, a relatively mild disease, and most of the cases are nursed at home. Measles and Whooping Cough still demand hospital treatment in the occasional case where there are severe complications or where home nursing is impracticable. Diphtheria has not been seen in the district for many years. Poliomyelitis is being brought under control by inoculation. Many cases are, however, admitted to hospital on suspicion of suffering from poliomyelitis, and these often provide difficult diagnostic problems. The extensive use of antibiotics has resulted in the appearance of severe infections due to certain bacteria which were formerly regarded as fairly harmless, and this leads to the admission of cases of the kind to the Isolation Hospital.

4. Tuberculosis.

Cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the Regional Hospital Board for treatment, which is supervised by the Chest Physicians for the area. Sanatoria are at Wincanton and Taunton for Pulmonary cases. Cases requiring orthopaedic treatment are becoming very uncommon, but when they do occur, arrangements for treatment are made according to individual need.

5. Mentally Sick.

The modern trend is to treat cases of mental illness whenever possible in their own homes so that they may remain as members of the general community.

A Day Mental Hospital in Taunton performs a very useful function in this connection in enabling many patients to carry on at home who would otherwise require to have residential hospital care. When this type of care does prove necessary cases are admitted to Tone Vale Mental Hospital. The psychiatric specialists conduct out-patient clinics for the area, and it is felt that now, more than ever before, mental patients have a better outlook and are reaping the benefit of more successful methods of treatment at an earlier and more hopeful stage of their disease.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

1. Tuberculosis.

Clinics for patients suffering from this disease, and for the supervision of suspects and contacts, are held by the Chest Physicians at Musgrove Park Hospital. There is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with these clinics. Mass Radiography has been carried out from time to time on various groups of the county population by a team working from a centre in Bristol, and Wellington is one of the districts which has had the benefit of this service.

2. Venereal Disease.

A combined clinic and treatment centre is carried on at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital which caters for male and female patients of this and surrounding districts. These conditions which had, for some years, become rather uncommon in the district have been latterly showing a marked increase in prevalence; and this is in accordance with experience over the country as a whole.

3. Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council under whose supervision are also the Health Visitors and Midwives practising within the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District of Wellington. Obstetric Consultants in Taunton are available for consultation with medical practitioners in the district. Abnormal and complicated cases are admitted for hospital treatment when necessary. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the medical staff of the County Council.

A valuable service is provided for premature infants. Small or premature babies unsuitable for nursing at home are admitted to a Special Care Unit at Musgrove Park Hospital, an ambulance equipped with an Oxyginaire incubator being sent to collect them from their homes. If the baby is deemed fit to be nursed at home, the district midwife can obtain advice and special equipment to help her with the management of the case.

A weekly clinic is held in the premises at Messrs. Fox Bros. at which the Health Visitors are in attendance.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Public Health Laboratory Service has a Laboratory in Taunton which undertakes the bacteriological examination of swabs, blood, fæces and sputum, etc. This service is available also to the doctors practising in the district. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are also undertaken for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies and sewage effluents, etc. The co-operation and assistance of the Public Health Laboratory Staff in investigating all types of bacteriological and epidemiological problems is of the greatest value.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Ambulance transport for all cases is the responsibility of the Somerset County Council. The main Ambulance Station and Control for the south-west of the County is situated at the entrance to Musgrove Park Hospital. The Ambulance Station serves a very wide area and at the 31st December the establishment of vehicles and staff was as follows:-

Vehicles	-	7 Ambulances
		8 Sitting-case Ambulances.
Staff	-	6 Sub-officers
		4 Leading Ambulance-men
		22 Driver-attendants

All vehicles at this station are fitted with two-way radio.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - SECTION 47.

It was not found necessary during the year to take statutory action under this Act but some cases were dealt with informally.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The prevalence of infectious diseases was low, but during the year there were the following notifications:-

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3
Virus Meningitis	2
Measles	172

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

Regular sessions are held by the Regional Hospital Board Unit on one afternoon of each fortnight at the Longforth Road Car Park. Residents who wish to have a chest X-ray are welcomed at any one of these sessions and it is strongly urged that this facility should be freely used, especially by those over the age of 40 who would do well to have an annual chest X-ray.

There have been some suggestions of curtailing or even dispensing with the Mass Radiography Service and making use of hospital facilities for routine X-ray checks, but it is understood that there is no likelihood of any alteration in the service in the immediate future.

As an example of the type of work done in a unit of this sort the following table shows the findings obtained from routine examinations at the Wellington centre during 1970.

Number examined	...	...	...	...	...	Male 173	Female 220	Total 393
Abnormalities detected	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	8
Details of abnormalities detected -								
Active Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
Acquired Cardiac Lesion	...	...	...	...	...	-	2	2
Pleural Thickening	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Bacterial and Virus Infections								
of the Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	2	-	2
Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Dorsal Scoliosis	...	...	...	...	...	-	1	1

IMMUNISATION

The protection against various infectious diseases which can now be given by immunisation is one of the most important of public health benefits, and has contributed largely to the decline in prevalence of these conditions and to the very great reduction in the number of deaths which they now cause. This work is going on steadily in Wellington as in other parts of the County.

The whole of the recording side of the procedure has now been transferred to the County Council computer, and for this purpose children are grouped according to the family doctor on whose medical list they are. It is logical and desirable that preventive medical procedures should to an increasing extent be among those benefits to the population available through the family doctor under the National Health Service. It is no longer possible to give figures of the number of children immunised at various ages in any particular local authority area, and thus the percentage rate of immunisation against different diseases cannot be stated. An up-to-date schedule of the immunisation programme recommended for children is appended, together with brief notes on the diseases against which the procedure is aimed.

AGE	IMMUNISATION PROCEDURE
4 months	First Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus Oral Polio Vaccine
6 months	Second Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus Oral Polio Vaccine
12 months	Third Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus Oral Polio Vaccine
18 months	Smallpox Vaccination
13 months-2 years	Measles Vaccination
4½ years	Diphtheria, Tetanus and Oral Polio Vaccine Smallpox Re-vaccination 4 weeks or more after this booster
Over 11 years	B.C.G.
11-13 years	German Measles Vaccination (girls only)
14½ years	Oral Polio Vaccine Tetanus Toxoid Smallpox Re-vaccination 4 weeks later

Diphtheria.

Immunisation against diphtheria was the first mass campaign of protection against an infectious disease carried out in this country, apart from vaccination against smallpox which has never been applied to such a wide extent. The result is that, whereas there used to be thousands of deaths from diphtheria each year in England and Wales, the mortality is now almost down to vanishing point. It is necessary for the percentage of protected children in the community to be kept high in order to avoid the recurrence of outbreaks.

Whooping Cough.

This is now probably the most generally disabling of the common infectious diseases affecting young children. There are risks to life, especially in infants, and lung complications can be severe and prolonged. Immunisation is preventive in a good proportion of cases and in the remainder modifies the disease to produce a mild attack.

Tetanus.

This is an uncommon infection in this country but important because of its very severe character and the high rate of mortality in those affected. It is much commoner in some of the less developed parts of the world, and even in Europe at least 26,000 have died from this cause in the past ten years. Immunisation gives the practical certainty of complete protection.

Poliomyelitis.

It is hardly necessary to stress the misery which can result from this disease in view of the widespread epidemics which have occurred in this country within recent memory. Many of the sufferers die, and others are left with a lifetime of disablement. Immunisation is now simple with the use of vaccine given by mouth and has been largely responsible for the virtual elimination of poliomyelitis as a serious epidemic risk in this country at the present time. Here again it is essential that a high proportion of children continue to be immunised in order to avoid the danger of further outbreaks.

Smallpox.

Smallpox is one of the most deadly of all infectious diseases. Its incidence in this country has been confined in latter years to scattered outbreaks, but the dangers of large-scale epidemics are increasing owing to the ease and rapidity of air travel from countries where the disease is still endemic. Vaccination gives excellent protection and is best done initially in the second year of life.

Measles.

This has always been a very common infection among children, with far from negligible risks to those in the younger age groups especially. Immunisation is now being carried out against this disease and it is hoped that widespread outbreaks will, in time, become a thing of the past.

German Measles.

Immunisation against German measles is now being offered and encouraged for girls between the ages of 11 and 13 years. This is an effort to avoid the risks of congenital defects in children born to mothers who suffer from an attack of German measles during the early stages of pregnancy.

Tuberculosis.

One of the most dramatic improvements in the state of the national health has been the enormous fall over the period since the last war, in the prevalence of tuberculosis and in the number of deaths which it causes. There are many factors responsible for this gratifying development, and one of them undoubtedly is the beneficial effect of the widespread campaign of immunisation with B.C.G. which has been carried out.

131 children attending school in the Urban District were given the Heaf Test and 106 were given B.C.G. Vaccination.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The supply of water is under the supervision of the West Somerset Water Board, except for six properties, which are without a piped supply of district water. These houses rely on well supplies which, whilst sufficient in quantity, tend to fluctuate in purity and can only be classed of doubtful quality.

The district water supply is from the Clatworthy Reservoir, Westford and Payton springs and Pitt Farm borehole. It is fed into the district mains from two main points so that the quantity from the sources mentioned depends on the general conditions prevailing and affecting the Board's supply. All the district water supply is chlorinated and that supplied from the Pitt Farm borehole is treated to reduce the iron content.

Details of samples of water submitted for examination are set out below:-

	<u>Bacteriological examination</u>	<u>Chemical analysis</u>
District Supply (W.S.W.B.)	4 satisfactory	3 satisfactory
Well Supplies	3 satisfactory 3 unsatisfactory	1 satisfactory

	No. of houses	Population (estimated)
District water supply	3,206	8,404
Well water supply	6	16
	3,212	8,420

SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND DRAINAGE

The main works for the disposal of sewage is at Tone, with small works at Mitchells Pool and Farthings Pitts, dealing with the flow from the South-East and Southern areas of the town.

It has been recognised for some time that these works are insufficient to effectively deal with the present flow of sewage and to allow for the treatment of sewage arising from new housing and industrial development. The Engineer's Department is responsible for this service and a lot of work has been done, with assistance from Consultant Engineers, to produce a scheme to improve and enlarge the Tone Works and to produce substantial new and replacement sewerage. The proposals will provide for closing the Mitchells Pool works, and it was hoped that final approval and Ministry Consent would be obtained very early in 1971.

Samples of the sewage effluent from the Tone Works are examined weekly, and additional samples are examined for the presence of pesticides. The samples dealt with during the year were as follows:-

No. of samples of sewage effluent from Tone Works.....	53	(Solids in suspension(parts per million) have varied from 18 to 80. (B.O.D. has ranged from 7 to 52.
No. of samples of sewage effluent examined for pesticides	28	- No significant traces of pesticides.
No. of samples of trade effluent examined for pesticides	29	

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection and disposal of refuse is under the supervision of the Engineer's Department and is well organised and supervised within the limits approved by the Committee. There is a weekly collection of domestic refuse and a special collection of trade refuse, where requested, every Friday. With the exception of 200 houses on a new Council estate, where a paper sack system is operated, the collection system is a "kerb side" one.

Attention was drawn to this in the last Annual Report, and it is regretted that although the Work Study Team has completed its assignment, the "kerb side" collection has been retained. The efficient removal and disposal of refuse is one of the most essential public health services. The aim should be to make this service the best possible, but it would seem that health hazards have been overlooked for a service at a lower cost.

The Working Party Report on Refuse Collection published by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1967 pointed out that kerb side collection is "unhygienic, untidy and a hardship for many people", and stated that "it should be tolerated only where the collectors would otherwise have no access to the refuse receptacle." An early opportunity should be taken to re-examine this method of refuse collection.

The disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping and whilst the refuse is well controlled, consolidated and covered, the space available for this work is so limited that a crisis point could arise in the immediate future. Although there have been consultations with adjoining authorities over an extended period in an effort to secure a joint disposal scheme, no definite decision had been reached at the end of the year, and disposal problems were becoming more difficult. At present it seems as if the Council will have to solve this problem alone.

VERMIN AND INSECTS

It has not been necessary during the year to deal with any premises for vermin (bed bugs, fleas, etc.) infestation.

Three complaints were received of nuisances arising from wasp nests, and one in respect of ants. These were abated through the services of the specialist contractor, but at the occupiers' cost.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no offensive trade premises within the district.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no premises within the area used or registered as Common Lodging Houses.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

Two sites continue to be used for caravans, one controlled by the Caravan Club, and the other a licensed site for 50 residential vans and 10 touring vans. Both sites are on land adjoining the A38, a main holiday route to the South-West. Whilst the licensed site is mainly used by itinerants, there are a number of vans with more permanent residents who have occupied the site for a long period.

With the exception of one serious case of overcrowding, there has been no serious problem in the operation of these sites.

The use of an unlicensed site by one caravan caused some difficulty, but when the Council were about to commence legal action, the caravan was removed.

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

There are four swimming pools in the area -

(a) One with a capacity of 65,625 gallons is privately owned and used by members of a Club - the water is mechanically filtered, and chlorinated. Routine samples are submitted for bacteriological examination and frequent checks made for free chlorine and the pH value.

(b) Two pools are the responsibility of the Education Authority and are supervised by the County Health Inspector.

(c) One pool is at a public school and is supervised by the School Governors.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

During the year there were eight new registrations and one shop was closed and deleted from the records, so at the end of the year the premises registered were:-

Offices	27
Retail shops	59
Wholesale shops and warehouses	2
Catering establishments	4
Fuel storage depots	1
Total	<u>93</u>

A total of 73 inspections have been made of these premises, including four general inspections.

The number of persons employed at these premises was 394 compared with 372 shown on the 1969 Annual Report. The increase is mainly due to the new registration of premises which should have previously been registered. Inspections have revealed the following contraventions, which have all been dealt with by informal action and no prosecutions have been necessary:-

	<u>No. of cases</u>
Section 4 - Cleanliness	1
" 6 - Temperature	2
" 8 - Lighting	1
" 16 - Floors, passages and stairs	1
" 24 - First Aid	2
Other matters	2
	<u>9</u>

One non-fatal accident was reported and investigated.

The regulations regarding the operation of lifts became operative in 1969 and require a report to be submitted to the local authority if any lift is found, on inspection, to be unsafe. Two reports under these provisions were received during the year - in one case the suspension wires were splinted and required renewal, and in the other instance the lift gates required improvement. These matters have been dealt with.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The Council continues to exercise powers, delegated by the Somerset County Council, under the provisions of the above Act.

During the year 59 visits were made to shop premises. No complaints were received, no contraventions noted and no special action was required.

This report is largely based on the work and records of your previous Inspector. Thursday is the recognised half-day closing and so far as I can ascertain there has been reasonable observance of the provisions of the Act dealing with hours of opening and closing.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

URBAN DISTRICT OF WELLINGTON 1970

Prescribed particulars on the administration of Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health:-

Premises	Number on Register	N U M B E R O F		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Prose- cutions
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	44	9	3	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers premises)	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	47	9	3	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Cleanliness Sect. 1	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding Sect. 2	-	-	-	-	-
Temperature Sect. 3	-	-	-	-	-
Drainage of Floors Sect. 6	-	-	-	-	-
Ventilation Sect. 4	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences Sect. 7					
(a) Insufficient	2	1	-	2	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	1	-	2	-

3. SECTION 133 - OUTWORKERS

No. of outworkers notified (resident in Wellington)	103
No. of outworkers notified (living outside Wellington)	2
No. of outworkers notified (living in Wellington but employed by firms outside Wellington)	7
Total:	<u>112</u>

BAKEHOUSES

There are two bakehouses in the district and these have worked satisfactorily during the year. There have been no complaints affecting these premises.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956/68

The only action taken during the year has been to deal with smoke nuisances arising from the burning of industrial and garden rubbish and in these cases (2 in number) satisfactory suitable arrangements were made.

No contravention of the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations has been noted and there has been no move to implement the provisions of the Act which deal with domestic smoke control.

There are no instruments in the district for recording the degree of atmospheric pollution.

NOISE ABATEMENT

Only one complaint was received and this related to noise arising from a large refrigerator in a newly opened self-service food shop. Some improvements were secured and there have been no subsequent complaints.

The previous Annual Report referred to traffic noise, particularly in the shopping area of Fore Street and High Street, where the main A38 road passes through the town. It was felt that the relief road by-passing this area and due to be opened early in 1971 would substantially reduce this nuisance.

MEAT INSPECTION

Inspection of 100% of all animals killed is still carried out and the maximum charges are made, though little, if any, leaves the district.

The hours of slaughter are not regulated as the amount of slaughtering is negligible.

At the commencement of the year two licensed slaughterhouses were in use, but in July one of these was closed, mainly due to the age of the owner.

Details of the throughput are as follows:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	193	-	1	1,017	7
Number inspected	193	-	1	1,017	7
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	-	-	24	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculo- sis and cysticerci	3.62	-	-	2.35	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Weight of meat Condemned (in lbs.) for:-</u>					
(a) Tuberculois	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Cysticercosis	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	88	-	-	72	-
Total (in lbs.) condemned:-	88	-	-	72	-

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

No outbreaks of food poisoning have occurred in the district during the year under review.

FOOD PREMISES

Inspection of food premises and advice on possible improvements has been carried out in conjunction with inspections under other legislation throughout the year and in general the traders have been more than willing to co-operate.

41 inspections have been made. No legal action was required, but in two cases warnings were necessary in respect of the delivery of food in an unsatisfactory manner.

Premises registered for the preparation, manufacture or sale of preserved foods:

Ice-cream	40
Cooked meats, etc.	7

39 of the premises registered for ice-cream sell only per-packed products and the one remaining shop produces ice-cream for sale on his own premises only.

FOOD CONDEMNED (Other than meat at slaughterhouses)

Tinned meat	56 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs.
Tinned fruit	183	"
Tinned tomatoes	16	"
Tinned fruit juice	13	"
Tinned vegetables	28	"
Tinned fish	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	"
Tinned puddings	10	"
Tinned sausage	$\frac{3}{4}$	"
Pork	12	"
Sausages	4	"
Cooked chickens	7	"

A substantial proportion of these condemnations arose from the break down of refrigerators and damage during transport.

FOOD COMPLAINTS

Four complaints were received, i.e:-

Cooking fat of uneven texture and colour.
Grapefruit with unusual odour.
Cake - stale.
Tin of plums containing grub.

These complaints were investigated and warnings issued where appropriate. No legal proceedings were necessary.

POULTRY PROCESSING PREMISES

There are no processing plants within the district boundaries.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER

No cows were slaughtered under this Order during the year.

HOUSING

Council Houses - No new houses have been erected since the completion of the New Priory development (115 houses and flats) in 1969. Difficulties in obtaining technical staff in the Engineer's Department have delayed progress on the construction of aged persons bungalows and it now seems that work will not commence before 1971.

Private Housing - During the year 77 private new houses were completed, compared with 44 in the previous year. Whilst this is an improvement, the general tendency will be for this rate to slow down due to the available sites for new houses being rapidly filled.

Allocation of new building sites is proceeding slowly, mainly due to sewerage and sewage disposal difficulties, and there does not appear to be much hope of a substantial improvement in this sector until further progress has been made on these improvements.

Houses gained or lost

During the year a disused Sunday School was converted to a dwelling house.

The following table is required by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government:

(a) Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	9
(b) Number of houses, the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by local authority or their officer	25
(c) Number of Representations made to local authority with a view to:-	
(1) Serving of Notices requiring execution of works	0
(2) Making of Demolition or Closing Orders	2
(d) Number of Informal Notices served requiring execution of works	31
(e) Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	13
(f) Number of Demolition or Closing Orders made	4
(g) Number of houses in respect of which an Undertaking was accepted under sub-section (4) of Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	0
(h) Number of houses demolished	0

Nos. 12,13,14,15,16,17 and 19, Rockwell Green (locally known as Ditchford Cottages) were represented in November as a Clearance Area. This area will be commented on in more detail in the 1971 Annual Report.

<u>IMPROVEMENT GRANTS</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
Applications received	6	14
Applications approved	6	10
Applications refused	-	-
Applications withdrawn	-	-
Applications awaiting decision	-	4
Value of Grants approved	£1,501	£8,341

<u>STANDARD GRANTS</u>		
Applications received	21	24
Applications approved	20	22
Applications refused	-	1
Applications withdrawn	-	1
Applications awaiting decision	1	-
Value of Grants approved	£2,610	£4,426

It is pleasing to report an increase in the applications for Grants - 38 compared with 27 in 1969 - and to note the very substantial increase in the value of these Grants. As a result some 36 properties have been repaired, improved and provided with essential facilities. The Standard Grants dealt with include one for a reduced standard and two extended Grants. The Improvement Grants include 2 for the conversion of one dwelling into two houses and this has provided good additional housing accommodation. There have been no applications for Special Grants.

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE

Only two applications for Qualification Certificates were received and resulted in the issue of a Certificate of Provisional Approval in one case and the other application was refused because the house was not in good repair.

RODENT CONTROL

The arrangement to employ a private contractor to deal with necessary work has continued and been effective. This contract also makes provision for attention, as required, to cases of vermin and insect infestation.

As a result, all Council refuse tips and sewage works are examined quarterly and infestations dealt with; farm premises and pig swill boilers are examined half yearly. These regular inspections have kept full control of the situation and the premises referred to have been almost free of infestation throughout the year.

Sewers have been dealt with as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the last treatment showed only one take in some 80 sewer manholes test baited.

Complaints received -

Rats - Affecting dwelling houses	18
Affecting works and business premises	6
Affecting pig keepers	1
Mice - Affecting dwelling houses	7
	<hr/>
	32
	<hr/>

The number of complaints received is less than 50% recorded in the previous year. Investigation of these complaints showed only minor infestations and the premises were suitably dealt with.

